Claims:

1. A computer program product storing computer instructions therein for instructing a computer to perform a process for automatically determining a machine implemented estimated value of an intellectual property portfolio, the program product comprising:

a recording medium readable by the computer; and

the computer instructions stored on said recording medium instructing the computer to perform the process, the instructions including:

(a) storing first objectively determinable characteristics of representative intellectual property portfolios and objectively determinable values corresponding to each of the representative intellectual property portfolios, the first objectively determinable characteristics and the objectively determinable values forming a baseline against which to assess the estimated value of the intellectual property portfolio;

(b) analyzing the intellectual property portfolio to determine second objectively determinable characteristics of the intellectual property portfolio to be estimated;

(c) deriving first information representing the second objectively determinable characteristics of the intellectual property portfolio to be estimated responsive to said analyzing step (b);

(d) retrieving second information representing the first objectively determinable

characteristics and the objectively determinable values of the representative intellectual property portfolios; and

(e) comparing the first information received from said deriving step (c) to the second information received from said retrieving step (d) producing an estimated value of the intellectual property portfolio when the first information of the intellectual property portfolio is statistically similar to the second information of one of the representative intellectual property portfolios.

2. An computer program product according to claim 1, wherein the intellectual property portfolio comprises at least one of patented, trademarked and copyrighted intellectual property.

3. An computer program product according to claim 1, wherein at least one of a patent database, a trademark database, a copyright database, a legal reporter database, a current events database and an intellectual property status database are utilized to determine the machine implemented estimated value of the intellectual property portfolio.

4. An computer program product according to claim 1,

wherein the intellectual property portfolio comprises a patent portfolio including patents, and

wherein the first objectively determinable

characteristics includes patent information derived from the patents in the patent portfolio comprising at least one of the following: number of claims, length of independent claims, number and dates of references cited, number of classes searched, legal status of the patents, number of years until each of the patents expire, group which examined each of the patents, domestic priority, and foreign priority.

5. An computer program product according to claim 4, wherein the patent information further includes frequency with which the patents have been cited as references for other patents.

6. An computer program product according to claim 1, further comprising the instruction of weighing each of the first and second objectively determinable characteristics according to predetermined weighing factors producing weighed first and second objectively determinable characteristics, and

comparing the weighed first and second objectively determinable characteristics to determine the statistical similarity between the weighed first and second objectively determinable characteristics.

7. An computer program product according to claim 1,

wherein the intellectual property portfolio includes issued patents, and at least one of trademarks and copyrights, and

wherein the first objectively determinable characteristics are derived by analyzing the issued patents, and the at least one of trademarks and copyrights.

8. An computer program product according to claim 1, wherein the estimated value of the intellectual property portfolio is derived independently of accounting valuation techniques including cost, market and income approaches.

9. An computer program product according to claim 1, wherein the first information of the intellectual property portfolio is determined to be statistically similar to the second information of one

of the representative intellectual property portfolios utilizing at least one of a curve fitting technique and a standard deviation technique.

10. An computer program product according to claim 1,

wherein the first objectively determinable characteristics include first valuation indicators,

wherein the first valuation indicators are assigned an importance factor based upon predetermined criteria, and

wherein the first valuation indicators are compared to the second objectively determinable characteristics and the estimated value of the intellectual property portfolio is determined responsive to the importance factor of each of the valuation indicators.

11. An computer program product according to claim 1, wherein the objectively determinable values of the representative intellectual property portfolios include objectively determinable monetary values which are not determined by said computer program product.

12. An computer program product according to claim 10, wherein the objectively determinable monetary values of the representative intellectual property portfolios are determined by at least one of prior adjudication, prior license values, prior purchase values and an accountant evaluation based upon generally acceptable accounting procedures (GAAP) of the representative intellectual property portfolios.

13. A computer program product storing computer instructions therein for instructing a computer to perform a process for automatically determining a machine implemented estimated value of an intellectual property portfolio, the program product comprising:

a recording medium readable by the computer; and

the computer instructions stored on said recording medium instructing the computer to perform the process, the instructions including:

(a) analyzing the intellectual property portfolio;

(b) deriving first information responsive to said analyzing step (a) based upon the intellectual property portfolio;

(c) retrieving empirical data relating to known intellectual property portfolios; and

(d) comparing the first information derived in said deriving step (b) to the empirical data retrieved from said retrieving step (c) producing an intellectual property worth indicator indicating the worth of the intellectual property portfolio.

14. A computer program product storing computer instructions therein for instructing a computer to perform a process for automatically determining a machine implemented estimated value of an intellectual property portfolio, the program product comprising:

a recording medium readable by the computer; and

the computer instructions stored on said recording medium instructing the computer to perform the process, the instructions including:

(a) analyzing the intellectual property portfolio stored in an intellectual property database;

(b) deriving first information responsive to said analyzing step (a) based upon the intellectual property portfolio;

(c) retrieving empirical data relating to known intellectual property portfolios; and

(d) comparing the first information derived in said deriving step (b) to the empirical data retrieved from said retrieving step (c) producing an intellectual property worth indicator indicating the worth of the intellectual property portfolio,

wherein the intellectual property database includes at least one of a patent database, a trademark database, a copyright database, a legal reporter database, a current events database and an intellectual property status database.